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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

NOVEMBER 24, 1977. ISSUE No. 45

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, No. 45 NOVEMBER 24, 1977

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Thanksgiving is celebrated this week, the traditional start of the fall codfishing season. See the article *"Rockaway's Cod,"* on page 13. *Photo by Dick Mermon*

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From the Editor's Head

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

SLIDE & FILM SHOW SERIES FOR WINTER OF 1977-78

These shows are available to sportfishing clubs and environmental organizations in the New York Marine District on a first come, first served basis pending the availability of the show producers. If you would like to be considered for a show between December 1, 1977 and March 30, 1978, just fill out the form below and mail it to:

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The three shows available are:

MONTAUK FISHING—*by Scott J. Simons*

This slide show and talk will discuss the how, where and why of Montauk boat fishing for fluke, bluefish, striped bass, cod and pollack. Diamond jigging techniques will be emphasized.

WEAKFISHING—*by Dr. William A. Muller*

This slide show and talk is again being offered by popular demand. Topics include the ecology and life cycle of the weakfish. There are also discussions of seasonal locations and angling techniques.

SALT MARSHES & SPORTFISHING—*by Dr. W.A. Muller*

A twenty minute 16mm color sound film on salt marshes and how they are responsible for a viable coastal fishery. The film is followed by a question and answer period.

STRIPED BASS—*by Dr. William A. Muller*

Slide show and talk about how and where to catch striped bass. Other topics include the fish cycle and ecology of the species.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Club Name or Organization _____

Name of Representative . . . . . .

Name of 1st show choice: . . . . . .

Alternative 2nd show choice: . . . . . .

First date requested: . . . . . .

Alternative date: . . . . . .

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Home address: . . . . . .

Size of membership of club: . . . . . .

Where does club meet? . . . . . .

NORTH FORK & SHELTER ISLAND *Guidebook*

AT LAST! A Guidebook about the North Fork! The brand new NORTH FORK AND SHELTER ISLAND GUIDEBOOK has 128 pages and covers dozens of subjects on land and sea—including golfing, tennis, hiking, emergency services, camping, nature trails, horseback riding, and bicycling. It is chock-full of information about scuba diving, sailing, yacht clubs, fishing stations, party boats, and charter boats. Local shellfishing regulations and beach permit requirements are explained. All usable boat launching ramps have been unearthed. Most of the articles and many of the illustrations are by local people. The 50 illustrations show fish, shellfish, birds, plants, fishing rigs, and historic sights.

The North Fork and Shelter Island Guidebook provides detailed instructions—gathered from fishing station managers and charter boat captains—about locations, depths, baits, fishing rigs, and techniques for catching porgies, flounder, fluke, blackfish, weakfish, striped bass, and bluefish. The fishing information is geared primarily to the Peconic Bays, Plum Gut, Long Island Sound, and the area around Gardiner's Island, but the techniques are valid for inshore and bay fishing throughout Long Island waters. There are many tips that will be of interest to experienced fishermen. This is the best single source of information on how to catch the fish found in North Fork Fishing grounds.

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The Guidebook and the items that go with it are available from most East End bookstores for $6. You can SAVE on mail orders, since the publisher pays sales tax, shipping, and handling! Send $6 to: The Blue Claw Press, Box 1332, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

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CHUM LINES

READER ASKS FOR SPECIFIC ARTICLES

Could we have an article on fall and winter fishing at Quincy, Mass.? A nice catch of flounder and cod would sit fine at this time of year. I would also like to see more articles by Dr. Muller on current trends in oceanographic research and methods. **Charles Wanderer.**

We do plan to print more marine environmental type articles in next year's issues. Please look for them and let us know how you like 'em. How about it, you writer/readers out there. Anyone have a good cod and flounder article about Quincy, Mass., complete with a few black-and-white photos?? **Dr. W. A. Muller**

COMMENTS ON SURF REPORTS

Want to thank you for the last two weeks of reports of surf fishing at Montauk. Sure appreciate it, and a big help to some of us around here.

Thanks again. Great when you write on something and get results. **Martin Buske.**

No... Thank you and other surf fishermen who pointed out to us that our fishing reports had slowly drifted away from the surf. We need and want your input. **Dr. W.A. Muller.**

FLOUNDER CUTE?

Your story in last week's issue about the life of a flounder was very cute, but nevertheless, full of fact and expressed in such an excellent way. Speaking for myself, I can only say that in fifteen years of my fishing career I had thought I knew about flounders just as good as the next man (**pros** not included). But your little story really put the icing on the cake and gave me a much better picture about this species of fish. I have read many books—old and new—and never have I had such a perfect understanding. "Now here comes my request." I realize that you and the staff at The Fisherman have already mapped out certain articles for the future winter issues, but could you **please** try and find a way to sneak in information about other species of fish, in the same story-form way? I don't mean a story every week, but once in awhile will do until you have covered all.

As I mentioned before, you really hit the nail on the head. If someone had explained fishing to me in this manner when I was a young lad, maybe I would have been a **pro** now. But with people like yourself and staff members, and the many captains and sharpies who have taken time out in the past to school people like myself, I truly know that one day I will have the status of a **pro.** Thank you all so much, and keep up the good writings. **Charles David.**

We have really been delighted with what amounts to an avalanche of compliments about that flounder piece. If our readers request it, and they apparently do, we will give it an intermittent try with other species. We have printed several of these reactions in Chum Lines for the last few weeks, and it's only because seventy-five percent of our mail has addressed itself to this topic. Thanks. **Dr. W. A. Muller.**

MEMO:

TO: *All Readers and Advertisers*

Don't Miss *The Fisherman's* SPECIAL WINTER SEASON!

the Eight Issues in January & February!

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In short, *The Fisherman* makes the off-season come alive with this mid-winter package! If you aren't a subscriber, sign up now so you won't miss these 8 dynamite issues!

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Pass It On...

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING... ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The referenced application (Jamesport Nuclear Power Station) by the Long Island Lighting Company for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403); Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (86 Stat. 816, P.L. 92-500); Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (86 Stat. 1052; P.L. 92-532) as appropriate, which was previously described in Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. 8816 dated 1 February 1976, will be considered at a public hearing to be held on Thursday, December 8, 1977, 7:00 p.m., at the Riverhead Senior High School, Osborne Avenue, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901.

All interested parties are invited to be present or to be represented at the above time and place. They will be given an opportunity to express their views concerning the proposed work in reference to navigation, fish and wildlife, water quality, economics, conservation, aesthetics, recreation, water supply, flood damage prevention, ecosystems and other factors affecting the interest of the general public.

CLUB NEWS

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS'—MILL RIVER ROD & GUN CLUB BASS DERBY

The results of the inter-club Bass Derby held Friday, October 21 to Sunday, October 23, 1977 are now available.

First prize: Hugh Chancey, Bass - 39 lbs. 8 oz; Second prize: Bill Collins, Sr. - Bass - 37 lbs. 12 oz.; Third prize: Dan Marro - Bass - 13 lbs. 14 oz.

All three fishermen are members of the Huntington Anglers. The first two fish were taken on bucktails in Plum Gut, while the third fell victim to Dan Marro's umbrella rig at Eaton's Neck. A nice touch to this inter-club competition is the tradition of a contest breakfast. This year, Huntington Anglers hosted the breakfast at the Harbor Boating Club of Huntington.

FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

LAFAYETTES
(leiostomus xanthus)

THE RETURN OF THE SPOT! Sounds like a radio mystery thriller, but it isn't. Lafayettes are commonly called spot throughout their range. In fact, in southern areas the term "spot" will be heard more commonly than lafayette.

RANGE OF THE FISH IS EXTENSIVE. They are found from Texas' inshore Gulf of Mexico to southern New England. They are only abundant as far north as Woods Hole, Massachusetts. It is very scarce in the Gulf of Maine and only a very few fish have been observed in those waters.

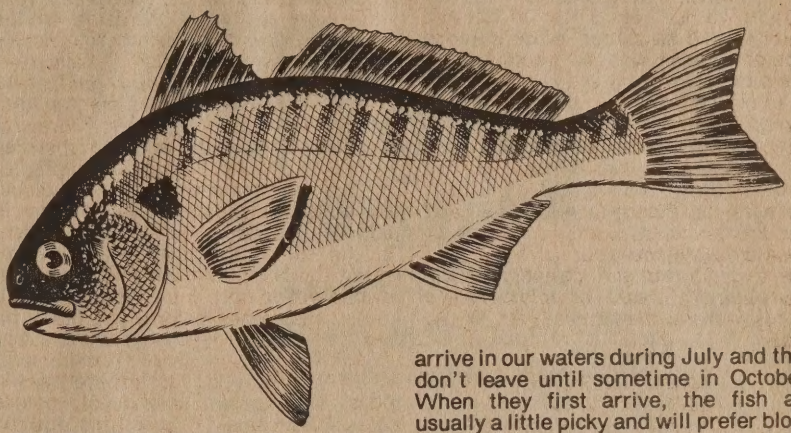
A LITTLE CROAKER! Lafayettes belong to the family of croakers, a large group of fishes that includes the weakfish. There are some similarities between the spot and its weakfish cousins, but lafayettes are deeper bodied and the snout is more rounded than the weakfish. However, both weakfish and spot lack the chin barbels common to the rest of the croakers. Lafayettes have no prominent teeth, the tail is forked, and a large dark spot is located posterior to the gill openings and slightly above the pectoral fin.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS. The dorsal fin is divided into two portions. The front portion consists of ten (10) spiny rays, while the rear portion is composed of thirty to thirty-four soft rays. The anal fin contains twelve or thirteen rays and its margin is concave. Ventral fins and pectoral fins have convex margins.

COLORATION: The species is basically bluish gray but with some gradation in color from dark to light from the dorsal area to the ventral surface. The middle of the body is marked with tones of gold, while the ventral surface is silvery. Medium sized fish have twelve to fifteen yellowish bars that run from the dorsal margin towards the ventral surface. These markings run at a slightly anterior angle so that the bars are oblique. These markings disappear from older fish.

JUST A LITTLE CRITTER. Lafayettes can reach a size of about thirteen or fourteen inches, although few specimens are taken that are as large as that. These large fish can weigh up to a pound-and-a-half. The average size of adults is around nine or ten inches, but many smaller fish are caught as well. Typically, these fish will weigh from one-half to three-quarters of a pound.

THE EDGE OF THE NORTHERN RANGE. It seems logical that when there is a decline in the overall population of lafayettes, that they would seem to disappear from the fringes of their range first. Thus, lafayettes have been scarce in our waters for a long time, while southern fishermen have had no complaints about too few spot. A few successful year classes will again swell the population to the point where some portion of the tribe searches for new feeding areas.



OLD-TIMERS' TALES. You've heard of old wives ' tales. Well, lafayettes have been considered to be old-timers' tales. Many was the time that I chatted with a group of fishermen when an old-timer would talk about catching lafayettes in such great numbers as to compare with snapper blues today. Inevitably, other heads—mostly white—would nod up and down in support. The young "whipper-snappers" like myself would scratch our heads and wonder what these guys were talking about. When we learned that these fish rarely exceeded a pound, we ignored them, figuring that even if the fish was now extinct it wouldn't matter very much. That kind of reasoning was part of us before "we got ecology."

STRIPER BAIT. That was before the young "whipper-snapper" trophy hunters among us realized that lafayettes might some day play a major role in our lives as bait for bigger game. Although we did receive reports that lafayettes were being caught for several years now, it wasn't until 1977 that the little fish seemed to crop up everywhere and in such tremendous numbers that they became an integral part of almost every fishing report. The fish continued to be taken right into October, while bass and blues seemed to be in short supply—especially in western sectors and along the beach.

THEN IT HAPPENED! Bass at Democrat Point. Blues and bass from Gilgo to West End Two! The attraction turned out to be millions of lafayettes migrating along the beaches. Now we have learned that live-lining lafayettes was a big item along the south shore western end for taking big bass. Maybe we won't miss the mullet runs if lafayettes continue to please?

LAFAYETTES ARE TOUGH TO HOOK. The fisherman needs very light tackle to catch these tricky fish. They have very small mouths and unless the very smallest hooks are used (Sproat numbers 8, 9, 10) success will be limited.

THE SEASON. Lafayettes usually arrive in our waters during July and they don't leave until sometime in October. When they first arrive, the fish are usually a little picky and will prefer blood worms or sand worms. However, lafayettes will inundate shallow bays, creeks, and rivers in such numbers that they will quickly consume much of the available bait. Thus, a few weeks after they arrive, they may be willing to take clam or mussel baits.

WHERE TO FIND THEM. Spot tend to favor oyster or shellfish beds and channels where the water averages eight to ten feet. They may feed on the slopes at high tide and retreat into deeper holes at low water.

GENTLE NIBBLERS. In spite of the fact that competition for food among lafayettes is usually keen owing to their abundance, they are often very wary feeders. There are a few things that you can do to improve the odds.

STRATEGY. First, use small baits. Use a piece of bait just large enough to cover the hooks. Second, keep your line taut so that you can feel even the slightest nibbles. Third, keep the bait moving. You can use the same approach that you use for flounders. That is, gently bounce the sinker up and down. Lafayettes will attack a slowly moving bait much more vigorously than they will a stationary morsel. The idea is to imitate a piece of bottom fodder gently swirling with the tide.

THE RIG. Lafayettes are good sport on ultra-light tackle but are easily overmatched by anything larger. Use the lightest sinker that you can get away with. Tie anywhere from two to five hooks into short six-inch leaders. Secure the first hook directly above the sinker. Then tie the second hook about three inches above the first and repeat this until all the hooks are attached. Some fishermen tie the hooks directly to the line because they become annoyed when the leadered hooks tangle. However, unleadered hooks account for a major part of the spot's shyness. The best compromise would seem to be to use a two-hook rig tied six inches apart.

NEXT SUMMER TAKE A CHILD FISHING FOR LAFAYETTES!

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

WRECK FISHING FOR COD

Damnit!" That's not exactly what Artie Leidecker said, but it's close enough. I re-baited the cod hook with numbed fingers and tried once more. Rat-tat-tat! Oh, damn! Done in again by larcenous bergalls.

For an exasperating fifteen minutes, Artie had been fuming at the "Echo's" controls, doggedly trying to maneuver us along the inside edge of the Steel wreck. But as always, mere seconds before success, a gusty west wind that had been raising hell since sun-up spitefully pushed the "Echo" over the wreck—a feat joyously received by skimmer-happy bergalls.

This attempt made the third time we had backed down to the marker buoy, the third time I had stood at the bow in the cold December wind, watching and listening to the "white horses" hiss by, each time securing the anchor at Artie's signal, and then staggering back to the stern, hoping against hope to snag a cod.

But always before I could get a chance, along would come that expected and now familiar gust, and we'd have it to do all over again. And to add insult to injury, I was wet from spray and cold. It was enough to aggravate a saint, let alone two dedicated codfishermen.

"How about running out a bridle?" I suggested.

"The hell with it, Matt. We'll try once more and then it's back to the Cholera Bank."

The Cholera Bank. We'd already spent two hours on it with nothing to show but three anemic whiting and a stray mackerel. For my part, we could have deep-sixed the whole idea and headed for home; but Artie is a do-or-die boy from the old school.

So, finding failure at the Cholera Bank, we had moved hopefully to the Steel wreck. There were cod there, Artie said, and after I reminded him that that is what he said about the Cholera Bank, he said he'd prove it. He was probably right about the cod—he usually is. We had taken our share of cod from this wreck over the years, but how could a guy prove it when conditions made it difficult to fish properly?

So, with this gloomy thought in mind, I proceeded to the bow, braced myself against the sharp wind, unloosed the anchor line, arm-signalled the direction in which it lay, and waited for Artie to move ahead on the engine.

And then—miracle of miracles! That punishing west wind had suddenly lost its force as surely as if an invisible wall had slowly descended before us. In minutes, it had been reduced to a zephyr! "Hold it!" I shouted. I walked back to Artie. "Back her down some more and wait. This damn wind's going to shift."

And it did—to the northwest. A breeze; no more than that. Perfect for anchoring. We waited and the seas quieted eventually, enough so we could re-anchor without difficulty. The luck of the Irish had held true again.

But would that luck continue? There was only one way to find out. Try it.

My sinker had already thumped bottom before Artie joined me. I said a silent prayer: please, no more bergalls. And there weren't, which to my fish-oriented brain meant several things.

It could mean there were cod around and those foxy bergalls were taking no chances leaving the sanctuary of the wreck and winding up in some sharp-eyed cod's stomach. Or the lack of bergalls could mean in a left-handed way that we were now far enough off the wreck to do ourselves some good. It could also mean there actually were no cod in the area and that the bergalls still weren't taking any chances.

All of which means that in these circumstances you take your pick and hope for the best. It's even money.

Artie got the first fish—an audacious ling that foolishly swam off bottom and grabbed the high cod hook. Better than nothing, I told him—a statement which earned me a baleful look.

We sweated it out. Ten minutes. Twenty minutes. A half-hour. Only a real codfishing nut could remain cheerful under such conditions. Not that I was over-cheerful about the prospects, but I know the prime requisite of a good codfisherman is patience, and I was willing to contribute a little.

And it paid off. I was just debating about changing to a fresh piece of skimmer when I felt the telltale knock of a cod—a knock that can't be mistaken for anything else but what it is. On the third yank, I came back hard and sunk my hook into our first cod of the day. Several minutes later, the cod lay belly-up on the surface and Artie deftly planted the gaff and lifted aboard a ten-pounder. Number one! Where there's one, there's more.

And there was. We finished the day with eight cod: five for Artie and three for me. They weren't record-breakers by any means: just average-sized winter cod running between seven and twelve pounds—but good fish, nevertheless.

Now, all this may seem like a long-winded way to tell you that Artie Leidecker and I caught eight average-sized cod while fishing the Steel wreck on a blustery December day; but I had good reason for doing so, a method to my madness, if you will, for I believe there is a wealth of information to be found by those who will look for it.

First, it was December, and December is always the best month for codfishing around offshore wrecks. It is then when November's early arrivals leave shallower water, seeking more suitable temperatures. Those cod will be waiting for you.

There was a west wind, followed by a moderation to the northwest. "What's that got to do with it?" you ask. Plenty. First, and most important, this condition makes for a rising barometer. And a rising barometer means fish go on the feed. They become hungry. Contrary to what some folks believe, fish do not continuously put on the feed bag. No more so than you and I.

I've been told that we, as humans, are not too far removed from the sea. Whether you believe this or not is immaterial, but the next time you become truly famished and feel as if you could eat the proverbial horse, step outside and note from which direction the wind blows. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Second, you'll find wind blowing from a westerly quarter makes for good codfishing—with the possible exception of a strong southwesterly flow. This is because a strong southwest wind makes for tough fishing conditions off the Long Island and New Jersey coastlines. Occasionally, during winter, this wind also heralds the approach of a low pressure area. But the fish are willing to bite if you can take the rugged conditions.

All other winds bring fair results, with the exception of those which blow directly from the east. When it does, forget codfishing. The barometer will continue to drop, and a low barometer produces few cod. Actually, the only good fishing I've ever gotten from an east wind is during September when sea porgy fishing. Then, it's like money in the bank.

You noticed I stressed the necessity of fishing the outside edges of the wreck, plus the trouble we took to do it. This was necessary for two reasons: one, to get away from those aggravating, bait-stealing bergalls. This can quickly put a kink in your fishing. And, two, you'll find as we always have that the largest cod cruise the outside of a wreck—or above it if it's really big and hasn't been reduced to a crumbled skeleton over the years.

By carefully skirting a wreck, cod can easily keep an eye peeled for their next meal. I've always caught larger cod along the edge of a wreck—say ten or fifteen feet out—than I have when fishing directly over it. It saves a lot of terminal gear, too.

The pointers I've stressed are most important and if you plan a little private wreck fishing for cod aboard a private craft, I suggest you do your best to use them.

Of course, if you are expecting to go party or charter boat fishing, what you've just read doesn't apply. You can't beat these professionals when it comes to wreck fishing for cod. About the only thing of importance then is to cast out and away from your neighboring competition. That's where your advantage lies. The skipper will do the rest.

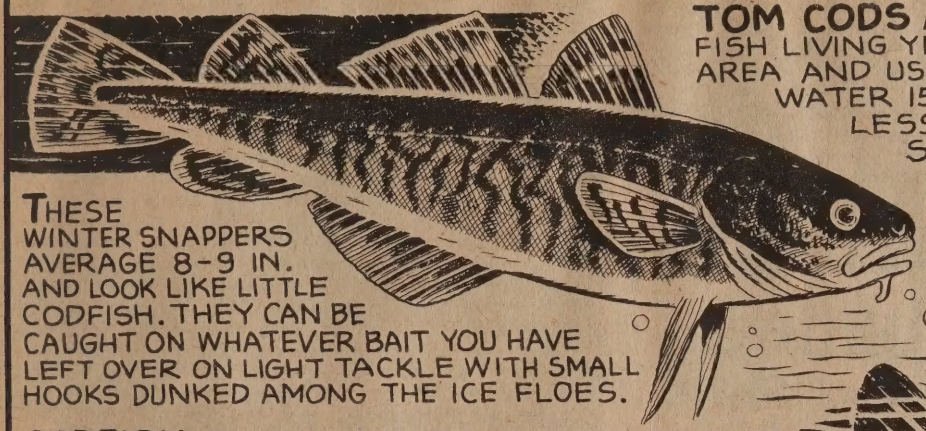
I can best suggest what tackle to use by telling you what I use. My codfishing rod is one that is stiff, yet light, and is six-and-a-half feet in length. My reel is a Penn 155, filled with good quality, forty pound test monofilament line.

Sinker weight varies, but usually I find I get by with an

(Continued on page 26.)

FROSTBITE CODFISH

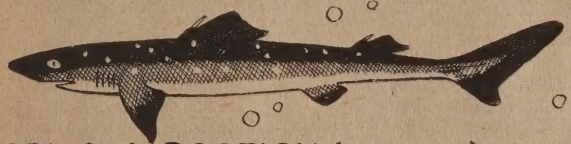
BY FRED GUARDINEER



TOM CODS ARE SHALLOW WATER FISH LIVING YEAR ROUND IN THE AREA AND USUALLY CAUGHT IN WATER 15 FEET DEEP OR LESS – OFTEN FROM SHORE SUCH AS DOCKS AND BULKHEADS NEAR FRESHWATER OUTLETS WHEN ITS TOO COLD FOR ANY OTHER FISH TO BE ACTIVE.

THESE WINTER SNAPPERS AVERAGE 8-9 IN. AND LOOK LIKE LITTLE CODFISH. THEY CAN BE CAUGHT ON WHATEVER BAIT YOU HAVE LEFT OVER ON LIGHT TACKLE WITH SMALL HOOKS DUNKED AMONG THE ICE FLOES.

CODFISH, THE WINTER TUNA OF THE NORTHEAST, ARE MOST PLENTIFUL IN 50-250 FT. DEPTHS AND EAT ANYTHING FROM OTHER FISH TO LOBSTERS AND BEER BOTTLES. LARGEST ON RECORD IS 211 LBS. AND 6 FT. BAIT IS USUALLY A COUPLE OF WHOLE SKIMMER CLAMS ON THE HOOK. OTHER GOOD BAITS ARE FROZEN MACKEREL, BUTTERFISH & SCUNGILI. COD HANG AROUND REEFS AND WRECKS, BUT CAN BE CHUMMED ON THE OPEN BOTTOM.



SPINEY DOGFISH (3-4 FT.) HAVE TO EAT ALSO, ESPECIALLY ON YOUR CODFISH BAIT.

TYPICAL TACKLE IS A SPRINGY 7 FT. ROD, CONVENTIONAL 3-0 SIZE REEL, 40 LB. TEST MONO AND 50 LB. TEST LEADER WITH TWO 7-0 HOOKS ATTACHED 18" AND 4 FT. FROM THE BOTTOM.

INSHORE FISHING

with Scott J. Simons

MONTAUK BULLDOGS

Blackfish are undoubtedly the most overlooked fish at Montauk. For some reason, big bulldog blackfish that would raise eyebrows anywhere else on the Island barely get a yawn here. There are several reasons for this, none good in my opinion. First, there are just too many other species of game fish around. Just as a ten pound black doesn't raise an eyebrow, neither does a fifteen pound bluefish, thirty pound bass, or forty pound cod—you're **supposed** to catch big fish at Montauk! The other reason is timing. When the blackfish move inshore around June, everyone is bass happy, looking for the start of a spring run. The same situation exists when the blacks move inshore again in October: the fall run of bass and bluefish is on in force, and who has time for the lowly blackfish? The charter boats don't push Montauk's excellent blackfishing, and for good reason. They can count on less than one hand the number of times in a year someone calls them up and says, "I want to charter your boat to take six men blackfishing." I think the major problem is that few fishermen are aware of the quality and quantity of blackfishing on the East End.

Some of the few fishermen that do know sail their boats out of Henry Colombi's Star Island Yacht Club. Al, John, and Tom, of the private boats "Friendship III" and the "Hi-Lee" have made an art of Montauk blackfishing. A few Sundays ago I was hanging around the dock when the trio pulled into the marina aboard the "Friendship III," returning from a blackfishing expedition to Cerebrus Shoals. The pictures shown were taken dockside as they unloaded their catch. The fish box was half-filled with about thirty big blackfish, many in the eight-pound class. "No big one's today—all of these east winds must have shook up the fish." Gee, I thought, I'd love to see what these guys considered to be a **good** catch! It was only ten-thirty in the morning, and with first light sometime after 6 AM, they couldn't have fished for more than three hours. One of them also commented that they would have done a lot better if they hadn't lost the moving tide awhile ago. On the North Side of the Point, areas like the Pocketbook Grounds, Cerebrus Shoals, Shagwong Reef and the rocky areas off Culloden Point are always fished on the ebb (outgoing) tide.

Captain Ron Grandinetti of the charter boat "Julie III" is another fisherman who knows what blackfishing at Montauk is all about, and is one of the few captains who will take charters out for them. Ron's favorite spot for blackfish is the ledge at the Pocketbook Grounds—more or less due north out of the jetties. He has fished two charters there on the last two Saturdays. Two Saturdays ago, a party of five led by Brian Wilson took fifty blackfish ranging up to twelve-and-a-quarter pounds, and last Saturday, a party of three led by Mike K., bagged over 100 blackfish up to ten-and-a-half pounds—that's blackfishing!

The excellent blackfishing close to the jetties should continue for a few more weeks, until the water temperature drops and the fish move into deeper water. But the blacks are still around, and some years, the hot fishing lasts right through the winter at the Cartwright Grounds, Southwest Ledge and around Block Island. The high ground of Cartwright has produced many bulldogs in the twelve to fourteen pound class in years past, and presently the open boat Marlin IV, skippered by Captain Richard Rade, is doing a real number on blackfish **averaging** six to eight pounds, with a few twelve and fourteen pounders mixed in the catch daily. Not to be overlooked is the fact that cod and pollack are also being taken, so we're talking about some real high-quality bottom fishing. But I don't recommend trying this fishing from your own boat at this time of year. The distance to be travelled and the fall weather aren't a good combination for a small boat. Either arrange for a charter or sail on an open boat—leave the skiffs at home.

There are four excellent blackfishing areas a relatively short distance from the jetties: Outer Shagwong, Cerebrus Shoals and Culloden Point. The key to all is **fish the high ground!** Chumming is not necessary, but the position of the boat is critical. You have to be right on top of the fish—a matter of ten feet can be the difference between bailing fish and getting nothing. So don't waste a lot of time anchored up in one spot waiting for the fish to find you—they won't. When you find a piece of high ground with your depth recorder, anchor up and start fishing. If you don't get a hit in a few minutes, slip the anchor and move the boat a little. Keep doing this until you find the fish.

There is only one bait to use—green crabs! You can't buy them at Montauk, so make sure you bring your own. The rig is simple: two large Virginia hooks, one tied into the snell of the other. Don't worry about using hooks that are too large—for this fishing, it's easier to make the mistake of using hooks that are too small. The hooks are tied directly above the sinker, and baited with half of a green crab, as shown in the photo. Make sure that the point of the hook is exposed, not buried under the shell, so that you will be able to set the hook. Standard blackfishing techniques apply: ignore the first taps and wait for the first hard tug, which indicates that the blackfish has the crab back in his throat at the "crushers." Set the hook and hold on—you're in for one heck of a "bulldog" fight.

SI-TEX
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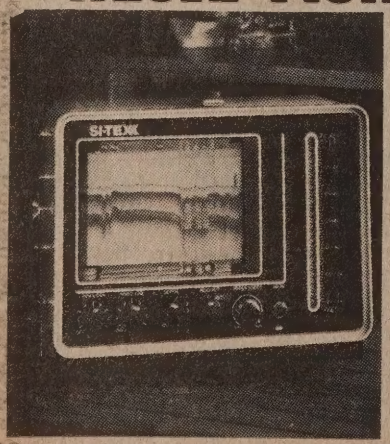

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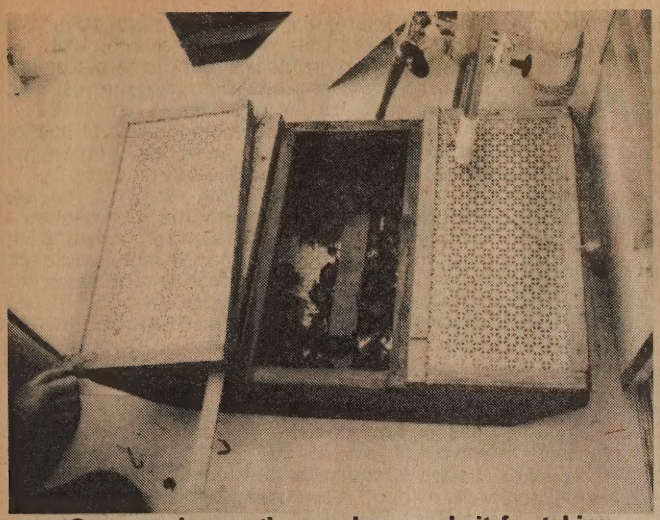
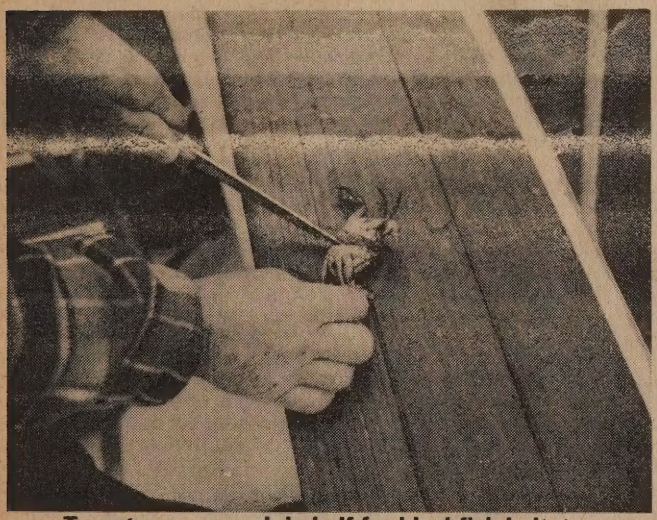
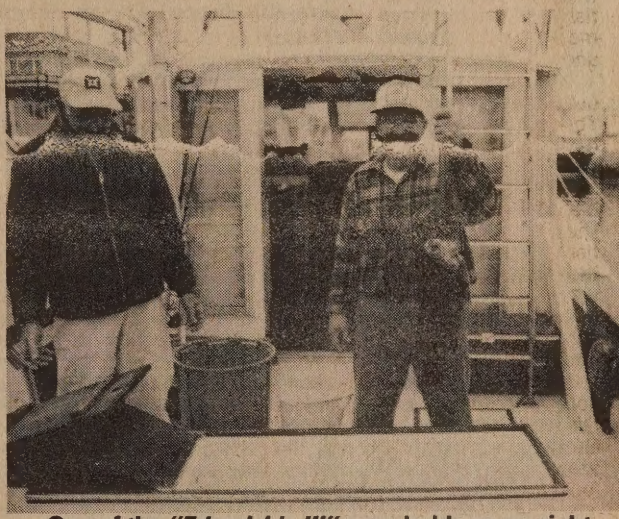


Green crabs are the number one bait for taking large "Bulldog" blackfish. The green crabs are kept alive in a large bait car kept in the water.

A mess of eight-pound class "Bulldog" blackfish. Montauk blacks *average* 6 to 8 pounds, with tens considered common and 12 pounders not unusual.

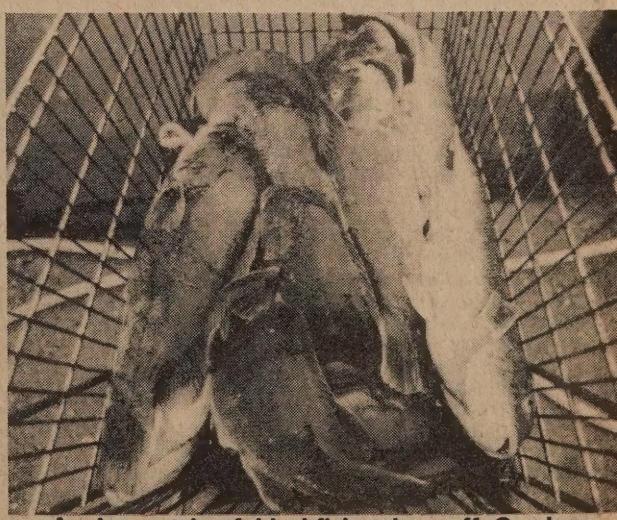


To cut a green crab in half for blackfish bait, turn the crab over onto its back and split the body in two with a sharp knife.



One of the *"Friendship III"* gang holds up an eight pound blackfish as another bows his head and prays for an end to the unrelenting easterly winds.

The green crab halves are rigged up on a two-hook rig as shown above. Make sure that the point of the hook is completely exposed for quick penetration.



A nice catch of blackfish taken off Cerebrus Shoals half-fills a shopping cart. Most of these bulldogs were in the eight-pound class.

Surf Side with David Curti

PLUG THEORY: Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

The other night, I was talking to one of my favorite fishing partners, Bruce Newmark. Now, Bruce is one of the finest fishermen I know. Many a winter night is spent going over our logs and discussing techniques for the coming season. Bruce is one of those rare breeds of surfcasters known as "a gypsy" because he chases the bass from beach to beach. His logs read like travel folders.

One of the things that came up during our conversation was the fact that, this year, certain swimming plugs did not produce the way they had in previous years. Of course, 1976 was no banner year for anyone, but even so it set us to considering the following question: "Are these plugs on their way to becoming one of those plugs that could not withstand the test of time?"

Why is it that a new plug will hit the market and do a bang-up job on fish for a season or two and then fade away, while others, like the Atom and Stan Gibbs, last forever?

My theory is that the fish have become conditioned to certain aspects of a given plug's performance. Consequently, they have learned to recognize the plug as an object of danger, and relay this information to other members of the school who, in turn, pass it on to other fish they come in contact with.

I realize that I am attributing to fish two characteristics that are found in higher species. One is the ability to learn, while the other is the ability to communicate. Well, I did some research and here is what I have come up with. Mark Sosin in his book, **Through the Fish's Eye**, devotes an entire section to plug shyness in fish.

Two scientists, Anderson and Herman, did experiments with two groups of largemouth bass. One group consisted of virgin fish (never hooked), and the other was a group that had been heavily fished. Both groups were fished using artificials. None of the fish were returned to the pond from which they had been caught. Instead, they were placed in a third pond.

An incredible forty percent of the virgin fish were taken, but only ten percent of the previously captured fish were taken! These fish were in the nine to twelve inch group. Among bass larger than twelve inches, five times as many virgin bass were taken as previously caught fish.

The following spring, the third pond that contained the previously caught fish, along with some virgin fish, became the site of an experiment in hook shyness. The previously hooked fish remained hook shy for six months. What was more astounding was the fact that the virgin bass were learning hook avoidance. During the first two weeks of the spring season, the ratio of "previously caught" fish to virgin fish was three to one, but during the second two weeks, the ratio dropped to three to two.

As impossible as it might seem, the virgin fish were actually learning to avoid the plugs! Anderson and Herman believed that the bass saw their schoolmates caught and learned the danger by example. In other words, this experiment evidently proves that fish can learn by a visual experience.

Now the area of the surf is just too vast for this theory to account for all the lure shyness that does occur. The surf is often riled up and even a fish's vision is often obscured. So how could schools of fish in varied parts of the coast learn to avoid certain plugs without actually seeing one of their schoolmates caught? Isn't it possible that some sort of communication technique does exist?

Studies have already concluded that certain species of fish exude a danger scent that warns other members of the school of impending danger.

Personally, I feel that game fish like the striped bass are capable of communicating with each other.

Professor Charles Fish (a great name for a marine biologist) studied weakfish during the spawning season and recorded loud croaking sounds of various pitch and frequency. It has also been demonstrated that striped bass, when annoyed or startled, can make single low-frequency thumps, occurring at 75 to 300 cycles per second, by contracting their body muscles and squeezing their air bladder.

These thumps were segregated into various different representative sounds (feeding, spawning, danger, etc.). Each had its own distinctive thump.

Now, I am not saying that the fish are capable of holding round table discussions; but it does seem to me that there just has to be some validity to all these studies!

Last year, a school of small bass remained on one particular side of an inlet jetty which Bruce and I fished for a number of weeks. We found that if we returned the caught fish to the same side of the jetty from which they had been taken, the fish would stop hitting the plug so readily after about five or six more had been caught. Eventually, they would stop biting altogether. However, if we returned the fish to the other side of the jetty, our catch would more than double. Bruce commented at the time that he had experienced this before, on other beaches.

How many times have you been into a school of fish and, after taking one or two, had the fish stop hitting and just vanish? It is my belief that, as time goes on, the fish become accustomed to the swimming pattern, noise level, color, etc., of certain plugs. Thus, whenever they are used the plugs are recognized by certain fish, who relate the danger signal to the school and, in turn, to other fish in other schools as they overlap each other during migration. These danger signals are conveyed through visual recognition, scent communcation, and through the thumping sounds I mentioned earlier. Thus, a sort of underwater telegraph system is set up. So today's hot plug becomes tomorrow's dud!

Being an experimenter by nature, I often try new plugs each season, and every once in awhile I stumble across a new "killer." Most of the times, I must admit that the effectiveness of the plug lasts for a season or two, but occasionally I find one that is what scientists call a "releaser." There is just something about them that drives fish into a feeding urge. It could be something as insignificant as a colored spot behind the head or just the right swimming pattern. Whatever it is, it works and that's what it is all about!

Lures like the Atom, Stan Gibbs, Creek Chub, Kastmaster, and Hopkins have all been around for a long time. So far they seem to have this "releaser" quality; for all our sakes, I hope that they continue to work so effectively!

When you find a plug that works for you, stick with it. You just may have found a "releaser" yourself. Only time will tell you for sure. **"Hook 'Em."**

STRIPED BASS KILL UPDATE

Although very little progress has been made because of the problems that we outlined in the last report, we want you to know that we are still following the development of investigations.

First, the kill is over and it appears to have been a very local phenomena of Long Island Sound. No further outbreaks have been reported along the normal path of fall migration. Let's hope that it stays that way.

Second, scientists are still trying to identify the causative agent. Unfortunately, this bacteria is difficult to grow. When cultures are transferred to new media, the bacteria grow but very slowly. Since identification is based largely on the response of the organism to different nutrients, the identification process will be slow.

Dr. W.A. Muller

Rockaway's Cod

by Bruce Sucher

True to his word, Pat Amoretti showed up at his boat at 10:00 a.m. I had been waiting in the boat yard since 8:00. We said our good mornings and zipped our jackets closed. It was chilly, but a glance towards the flag showed there was no wind. I hesitated and asked, "All systems go?" "Looks that way," was his answer.

I was very happy. Many weekends, the wind had been blowing too fiercely or the tide was wrong, or.... There was always something. Pat picks his days the way a master diamond cutter executes his decisive strokes—cautiously and intelligently. Pat has been fishing more years than I've been breathing and I never question his judgement—especially when it's almost winter and we're going codfishing in his twenty-three foot, 1950 Palmer-Scott.

I went back to my car and brought the package of clam bellies and the thermos of coffee. My rod was a light seven footer and my reel was a Penn 150, full of good quality twenty pound test line. Light by most standards for fish that are usually caught in near one hundred foot depths, with heavy currents and a mandatory eight ounces of lead.

That was the beauty of fishing with Pat. He knew spots off the Rockaways where the fish could be found in forty feet of water and the heaviest sinker he ever uses is a six. Bacala put up considerably more resistance in that depth and the light tackle gives them every opportunity to prove their fighting worth.

By the time I got down to the boat, Pat had the canvas off and the Chevy engine which Pat had installed and modified himself was warmed up. At the stern of the boat, dangling from a cleat was a milk box full of chowder-size hard clams which Pat feels is the best bait going. I brought the box on board and Pat mentioned that he'd had the clams for almost three months. The shells were clean and closed and I knew they'd be good bait. I loosened the lines from the dock and we left Dead Horse Bay and headed towards the Breezy Point jetty. The small amount of spray that reached the windshield quickly froze. We were the only boat in sight, and that made me a little nervous, but I had a lot of faith in Pat's seamanship. The rip at the end of the jetty set up a little chop, but we were soon out of that and back in calm water. Another half hour and I went to the stern and lowered a five pound chunk of lead on a measured length of line. We were in about fifty feet of water, and as it was outgoing tide Pat felt this was a good spot.

He lowered the anchor (which he designed and made himself) and it set instantly. It was chilly, but the sun threw us some needed warmth. I put a healthy piece of clam belly chum into the lead-weighted pot and lowered it to the bottom. Though traditional chummers crack skimmers and spread them around the boat, we both feel that is foolish and sometimes counter-productive. What happens if the wind direction changes and the boat swings off the chum? How do you know where the cracked clams are landing? There are too many things that can go wrong with that method. With the chum pot firmly fastened to the boat, we knew where the fish would be waiting for more free grits. We hoped. As Pat says, "There's no such animal as a sure thing in fishing, or anything else."

Pat had made up a half-dozen rigs and I tied one on. The bottom hook was tied to a three-way swivel about a foot over the sinker, and the second was tied to another three-way about three feet above the first. We cracked a few clams and put the bulk of each on our hooks, which are 5/0 black enameled Sproats. The whole rig is made of twenty pound test regular line. I was first on the bottom, and Pat's soon followed. We got out the thermos and lit cigarettes. Every once in awhile, Pat would pull on the chum pot to free some of the glop from the wire mesh.

I was getting impatient, when I felt two good tugs. I lifted my rod to set the hook and began reeling. The fish dropped off and I was heartbroken. I saw Pat's rod bounce a few times: he waited, then set the hook. This one didn't get away and I watched his rod buck and pump as the fish came ever closer to the surface. I got the gaff and with the first pass lifted the ten-pounder aboard. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw my rod tip bounce and I grabbed the butt as the whole outfit headed over the gunnel. The fish was hooked and I worked it towards the surface. The gaff sunk in and Pat hefted the bacala on board. I felt a lot better.

The fish came in bunches. For awhile, we were as busy as one-armed paperhangers and then the action would die. I dropped more fish than I would like to admit, mostly because I was impatient

(Continued on page 15.)

Whiting at Culloden Point

by Bill Stock & Harvey Friedman

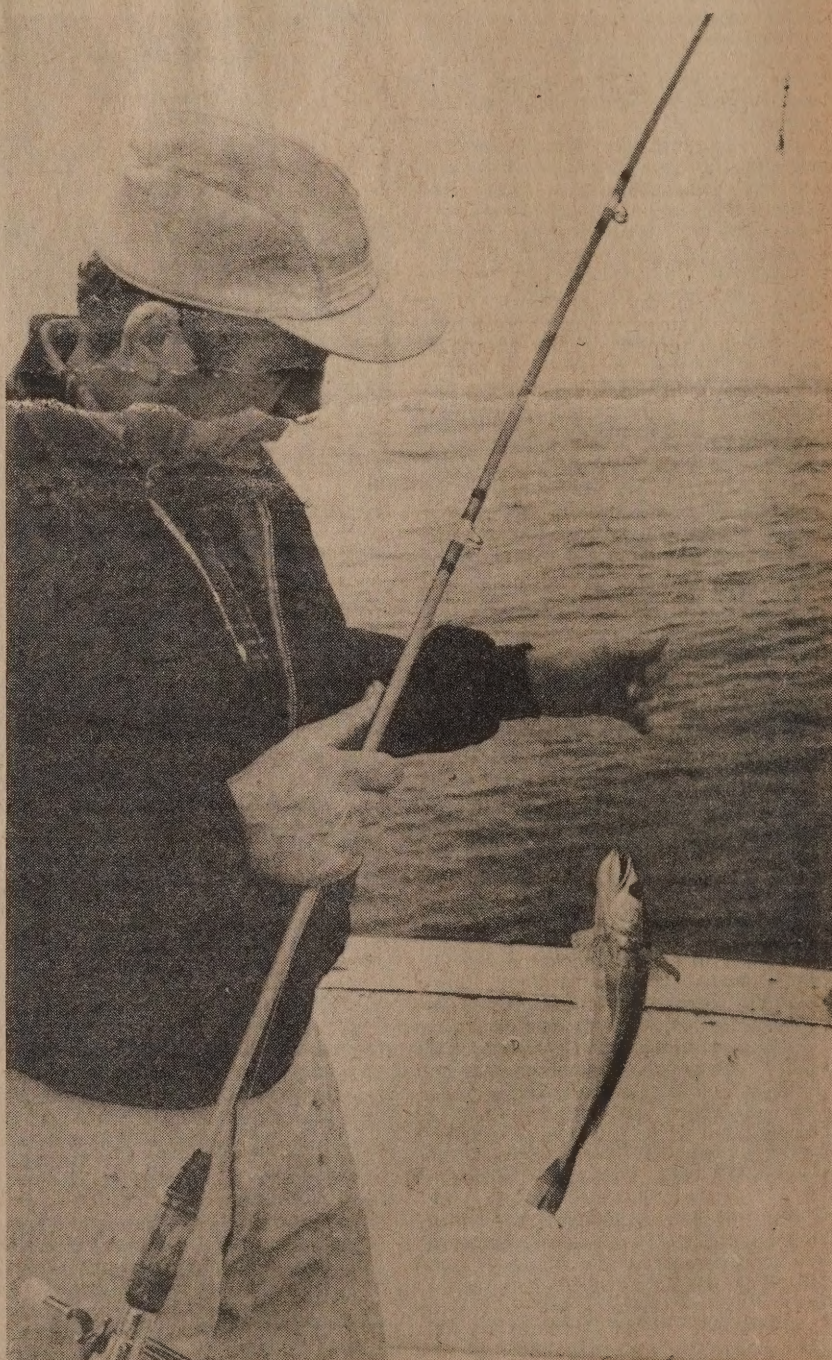
It was a cold December day, but the weather forecast was sufficiently optimistic to lure my brother-in-law and I out of our warm homes for a trip from the city to Montauk. The report of good whiting catches the previous week were too enticing to resist. When we arrived at Lake Montauk the tide was low. Our sixteen-foot "Sea Breeze" was launched on a snow-slicked ramp; the Montauk area had received a light dusting of snow the previous day.

The trip from the Montauk jetties to Culloden Point took less than five minutes. The light winds from the northwest produced a flat sea. The temperature was in the low thirties, but a clear morning sky with its warming sun held a promise of warmer temperatures later in the day. When we arrived at Culloden Point the tide was dead low. We slowly drifted across the area while surveying the sparse action on the few other boats in the area. Whiting were being picked up, but only sporadically.

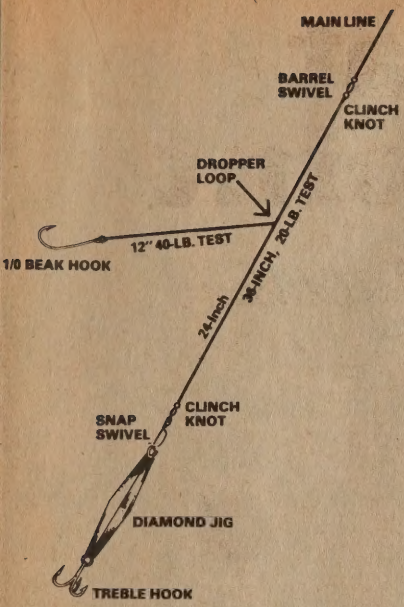
We rigged our rods. I used a Cordell graphite five-and-a-half foot bait casting rod, fitted with a Garcia Ambassadeur reel loaded with fourteen pound golden Stren. My brother-in-law used a six foot, medium weight boat-rod fitted with a Penn Beachmaster reel filled with twenty pound Garcia River Mist monofilament. Since ling are known to frequent this area, we decided to rig up so that we could catch both ling and whiting at the same time. Our rigs consisted of a single 1/0 forged beak hook with a stiff forty pound snell, twelve inches long. This hook was attached with a dropper loop two feet above a medium sized snap swivel. To the snap swivel was attached a diamond jig with treble hook. The entire rig was attached to the main line by using a barrel swivel tied with a clinch knot.

We had some old mackerel left from a spring trip to Long Island Sound. These were filleted with the skin left on and cut into strips one inch wide by four inches long. One strip was attached to one of the hooks on the diamond jig; the upper single hook was dressed with a strip bait also. In both cases, the strips were attached so that they would flutter enticingly in the current. These rigs were sent to the bottom and then slowly jigged about one foot off the bottom. The jigging was done at a slow speed and repeated every fifteen seconds. Most of the strikes occur on the up-sweep.

Initially, we drifted in the slowly moving current over a bottom that varied in depth from sixty to eighty feet. We were able to "find" bottom with three ounce diamond jigs. A few whiting were



Whiting usually cruise several feet off the bottom, and a high leader rig (shown here) is just the ticket. ***Photo by Dick Mermon.***



caught—all on the upper hook. These were cut into strips to provide fresh bait. As morning turned to early afternoon, the force of the incoming tide rapidly increased under the influence of a full moon. We anchored and had to use every last inch of line on board to hold anchor in the swiftly-moving current. Our depth flasher read seventy-seven feet. Six ounce jigs were attached to hold bottom. Cracked skimmer shells were thrown over to attract fish; soon we were bailing fish. Within three hours we caught a bushel basket full of whiting and some ling. The whiting went to one and three-quarter pounds, the ling to one-and-a-half pounds. Almost all the whiting were taken on the upper hook, while all the ling were caught on the jig.

As the afternoon ended we left Culloden Point knowing that a late fall trip for whiting can be very productive. So if you think that Thanksgiving is the end of your fishing season, consider the possibility of extending your season by spending a sunny December day at Culloden Point.

ROCKAWAY'S COD

(Continued from page 13.)

and tried to set the hook too quickly. Still, the fish box was gradually filling and we were both enjoying the day. When the fishing slowed, I lifted the chum pot and refilled it with the still-frozen clam bellies. We were soon back in action. Our two rods simultaneously dipped and we both started to bring in our fish. At the surface, we saw the cod with both our hooks in his gluttonous jaws. This one we lifted on board unceremoniously.

The last of the coffee was gone and we were both chilled as the sun disappeared behind a bank of clouds. The wind began to pick up and we realized the day was over. Back at the dock, we cleaned up the boat and filleted the cod. The fish, according to Pat, will be off the Rockaways until mid-March. I guess that still gives me something to look forward to in the cold days ahead.

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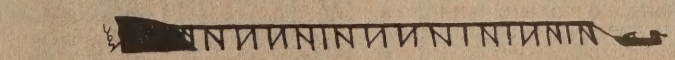

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

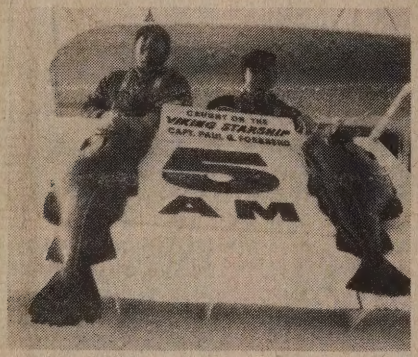
MONTAUK

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** said that the codfishing could only be described as being poor and very spotty around Block Island. There are still a lot of big blackfish being taken, however, so bring some green crabs with you. Paul said that we just need a little cold snap to lower the water temperature a little. The **Viking Starship** will be back from the shipyard in time for the weekend fishing.

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the charterboat **Julie III** reported that on Sunday a party of four led by Mike Jacobs caught 150 lbs. of big whiting up to 3 lbs. off Culloden Point. They also took 62 bulldog blackfish up to 8½ lbs., at Cerebrus Shoals.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** reported that there is still some excellent fishing at Montauk, although not many boats are sailing any longer. Bluefishing is still very good in the Triangle for monsters ranging up to 20 lbs. On Tuesday, the charter had 30 big blues and one cod and on Wednesday, the score was 30 monster blues to 20 lbs. Thurday's catch was 26 bluefish. Not many bass are being taken during the day, but John has been taking a few at night casting bucktails. On Wednesday night John nailed two bass and on Sunday night, he fished with friend "Big Joe" Smyth and took four bass up to 45 lbs. On Sunday's charter they had 300 lbs. of big blackfish and four cod.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that there are still plenty of big bluefish being trolled in the Triangle for the few boats that are still sailing. Blackfishing is still excellent, and on Sunday the gang on the "Friendship III" filled a shopping cart with bulldogs up to 9 lbs.



August Mataitis and Carl Westphal with their pool-winning fish of 51 and 50 lbs. These cod, plus others, were taken aboard the "Viking Starship" out of Montauk.

HAMPTON BAYS

Duck guide Charlie Miller called to say that on November 6 on his coot party shooting in Peconic, he and four shooters limited out in four hours. He says there are plenty of birds in the bay.

Jimmy at **Corr's Fishing Station** said that weather permitting the flounder fishermen did very well last week. Best action was had on the incoming water fishing at either the Basket Grounds or the area east of the East Channel. The fish range in size from 3½ to 2½ lbs. On Tuesday, Bob Seitz of Bayside took 30 good flounder fishing alone. Returning with help on Sunday, Bob took between 60 and 65 good sized fish. Best results are had using bloodworms for bait with mussels or corn for chum.

MORICHES BAY

Frank at **Angler's Den South** reports flounders being taken off the Lake Avenue dock in Center Moriches and in Forge River on worms and clam. A 3 lb. 10 oz. flounder was taken by Henry Patterson in Moriches Bay at buoy 35 on worm and mussel baits Sunday. Frank says he now has 12 gauge steel shot for you duck hunters and says to use it as the Conservation officers are cracking down. Also be sure to enter the Angler's Den large deer and large mallard contest being held at both stores.

Capt. John DeMaio and Helen Brown stand behind 23 bass up to 40 lbs. Helen was high hook with nine and also caught the largest. All the fish took a DeMaio jig and five were in the 30 lb. class.

CAPTREE

Capt. Neil of the **Lady Ann** called to say the codfishing continues to improve along with good catches of porgies, sea bass and blacks on all the wrecks. Saturday's rough weather hurt a bit, but they had a few cod and catches of the porgies, sea bass and blacks on some

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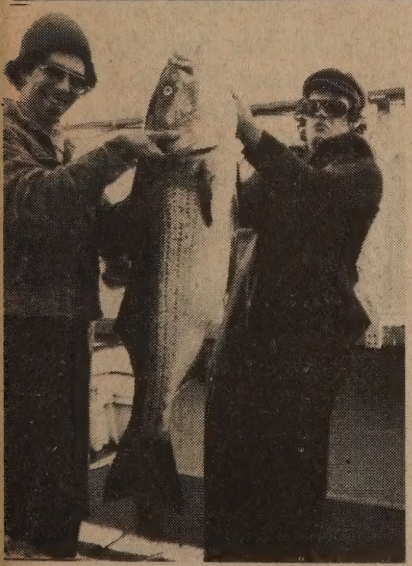
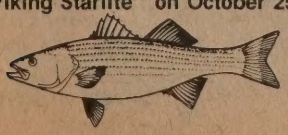


Show here is Joe Post and mate, Jim Harned with a 36½ lb. striped bass that Joe caught aboard the "Viking Starlite" on October 25.



pet wrecks. On Sunday, the boat fished three wrecks and took 20 cod, the largest being 22 and 25 lbs., plus good numbers of humpback porgies, sea bass and blacks mixed in. Neil says they still have some openings for Friday's and Sunday's wreck trips. See ad for details.

It is also reported that the **Marie III** took 20 cod fishing open bottom at Cholera on the weekend.

The charter boat **Yankee** called to tell us that on Saturday the Roslyn Heights Fire Department took 12 cod, six in the 20-30 lb. range, one 35 lbs., one 40 lbs., and the rest some smaller fish. Along with this, went a liberal sprinkling of porgies, sea bass and blackfish, plus a 15 inch fluke and an 8 lb. pollack. Sunday Bob had great weather, but only six cod. However, a pool fish of 40 lbs. was hung by Ed Gillan of Port Jeff Station. Of course, sea bass, porgies and some blacks were also taken to fill out the day. All cod seemed to have been taken in the morning

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** reported that the codfishing was very poor last week but showed signs of picking up on the weekend. Fishing wrecks on Saturday 17 cod were taken ranging from 10 to 40 lbs. Some porgies, blackfish, sea bass and ling were mixed in with the cod. The Captain said that fishing on the wrecks Sunday was very poor with only seven cod taken, but he heard of better catches being taken on the open bottom. The problem with fishing the open bottom is the hordes of dogfish in the area. Speedy said that the boats fishing the Bay on Sunday did excellent with the flounder, fishing in Range Channel, Heckscher, and around buoys 18 and 20.

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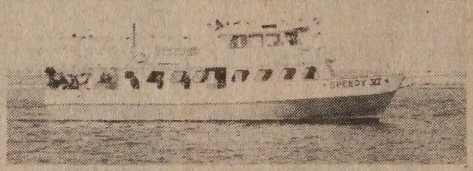

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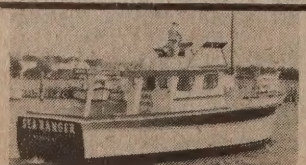

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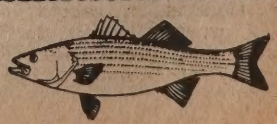


BABYLON

Babylon Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing on the flats at the east-west channel on the south side, from the head buoy at the Babylon Cut to the bridge and on the other side of the State Channel as well. Fish are going up to 3 lbs. The clammers are also getting flounder on clam baits. Skiffs are averaging 8 flounder per boat and heavy chumming is recommended. Still a load of eels all over.

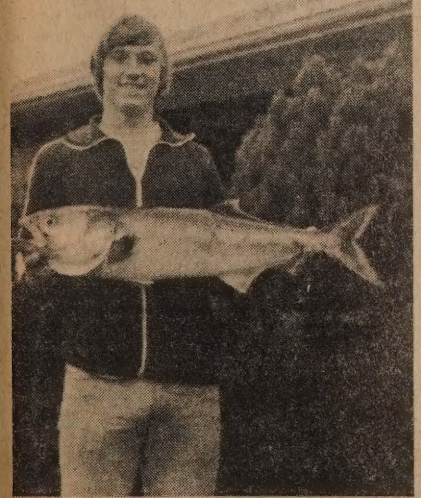
Augie's Bait and Tackle tells us that Jack Uhland of North Babylon on his boat Jim-Jack took a dozen flounder averaging 1½ to 2 lbs., with the largest hitting 2 lbs. 2 oz., taken at Heckscher on worms and a sashweight to churn up the bottom, on Sunday. The BTC cod contest on Sunday resulted in eight cod and eight prizes given out for 30 boats participating. All were caught on open bottom fishing southeast in 80-90 feet of water. Loads of doggies. A few blues were taken also and there were tons of birds working.

COPIAGUE

Jonas' Bait and Tackle tells us flounder fishing has been good on the north side of the channel outside of Copiague and Amityville. One customer had 4 cod fishing aboard the Capt. Joseph IV on Sunday. He gave Jonas a 22 pounder. This was on open bottom and on a wreck. 24 cod were taken on the boat. An Amity Harbor fishing club member weighed in a 19½ lb. cod taken on open bottom at the bell buoy, one of three cod on his boat. Jonas says a good number of cod were taken this past week on private boats.

BELLMORE

Roy at **Merrick Marine Supply** reports that the East Bay Anglers Chiller Tournament was won by Oakdale Anglers. Second place went to Squadron Anglers and second place went to Babylon Tuna Club. This was total poundage and the biggest cod went 48 lbs. for Bruce Bandise of Oakdale Anglers. This was in 70 ft. of water. Roy also told us that the New York Times had a reporter and photographer to his store on Sunday to cover his rod building classes and it will probably hit the stands next Sunday.



Fred Budzuis, Jr., caught this 13 lb. 2 oz. bluefish in Northport Harbor on a green Rebel. Photo courtesy of Bowman's Sporting Goods.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports that Sunday saw very good flounder fishing for eight boats in the areas of Merrick Point, Ned's Creek and Broad Creek on worms in the morning and clam in the afternoon. Fish were mixed, from 3/4 to a pound. Open bottom produced good cod catches. The Marjon had eight cod up to 36 lbs. The Bingo took seven cod up to 33 lbs. Both were fishing south of the inlet approximately 12 miles out. Plenty of doggies. Jimmy still has 12 skiffs in the water for you flounder fishermen to gather up fillets while the sun shines.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports flounder fishing has picked up with roughly 15 to 20 fish per boat, best areas this weekend being Freeport Creek at the south end and both sides of the high flats drain bridge.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports the best flounder fishing this week has been at Middle Bay and Baldwin Bay on mussels, worms and clams. Chumming with bellies was a big help. Fish are running from 1½ to 2½ lbs., in the keeper category.

Rudy Schuerger of Baldwin with his catch of fall flounder taken on the north side of buoy 44 with blood worms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station in East Moriches.

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Capt. Richie on the **Starstream II** tells us that Saturday was the best day of the week with 30 plus cod, with high hook going to Frank Murillo with 10 fish including the pool fish of 46 lbs. and also a 32 lb. bass. Frank must use the right deodorant. Otto Mayer had a 35 pounder with a few blacks, sea bass and porgies mixed in. On Sunday, nine cod up to 30 lbs. were taken, all between 20 and 30 lbs. The big fish of the day was taken by Joe "Flower Pot" Martin, along with a scattering of blues, porgies, sea bass and ling. Wednesday's catch was 10 cod with a 32 pounder taking the pool.

The Capt. Al tells us that on Sunday his fares took over 30 cod on his cow country trip, fish from 25 to 35 lbs. and that things are shaping up for a good cod season. There are a few fish on every wreck, along with porgies, sea bass and blacks. Fishing is mostly southeast of Cholera on open bottom and on some widely scattered offshore wrecks. On Saturday, 12 men took 12 cod from 20 to 30 lbs., along with a mess of blacks and ling. Al says the best codfishing is yet to come.

The Aloma II reports that both Saturday and Sunday saw fares bagging up on ling and blackfish up to 6 lbs. along with a few whiting and mackerel over some local wrecks. Capt. Spider says that he will be sailing Thanksgiving day for a half day trip returning about 1 PM. He will sail Friday also this week along with the weekend.

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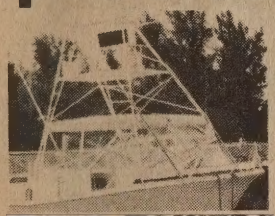

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Capt. Joe Long of the **Night Owl** called to tell us that Sunday's charter for Lee Tungsten Co., of Glen Cove resulted in 16 cod from 25 to 45 lbs being taken, plus a load of sea bass and large porgies. Tuesday's charter for the Town of Islip Highway Department resulted in 12 cod from 25 to 38 lbs., one blue and another mess of blacks, porgies and sea bass. This was all 150 degrees out of Jones around the 100 ft. mark.

The Miss Freeport reports that this past weekend saw a greatly improved flounder catches. Dave Dreyer fished Saturday and Sunday with excellent results both days. Morris Terry bagged a 2 lb. 8 oz. flounder. Saturday was good, Sunday even better. Tony will be sailing as an open boat Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Thanksgiving week, 7:30 a.m. He says bring friends.

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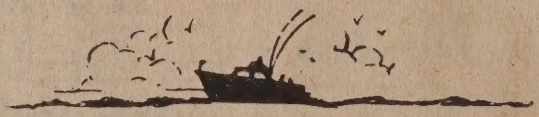
Jeff Resling of Hampton Bays with a 32 lb. striped bass taken off Gardiner's Island aboard his father's boat Quack-Quack. Subscriber Club Photo.



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A bonanza of a day was had aboard Capt. Arnold's "Shalidon." Shown here, left to right, are: Teddy Kuzin, Irwin Goodman, George Miller, Capt. Arnold with his 19 lb. bluefish and Artie Rosenberg with his 12 lb. weakfish. In the upper left is a 16 lb. cod caught by Capt. Bob Garraputta. A total of 20 weakfish, 8 blues and one cod was taken south of Fire Island jigging Ava 27s, Green Bananas and tubes.

POINT LOOKOUT

The Marie III called to tell us that on Sunday they fished open bottom in 90 ft. of water, zapping 19 cod from 12 to 30 lbs., southeast of Cholera. Most of the fish were in the 17 and 18 lb. category. A lot of doggies mixed in. The boat is running open Fridays and Saturdays only, with a 5:30 a.m. sailing time.

ISLAND PARK

Beckmann's Tackle reports that there was not much action this week because of the cold weather, but some flounder are being taken in Reynold's Channel and from East Rockaway to Jones Inlet on bloodworms. If you can get mussel chum it would be to your advantage.

The Commodore reports good catches at the inshore wrecks of blacks, ling and whiting. A private boat had a 20 and a 25 lb. cod fishing southeast of Jones at about the 100 foot mark. There are still flounders to be had in the bay and channels, with Hog Channel a known producer.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

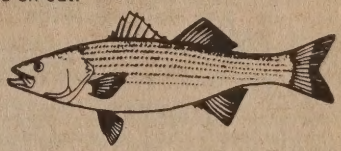
The Dorothy B reports super-duper ling and whiting fishing on Sunday really close, just 45 minutes from the dock. Capt. Tom says they really hit the jackpot on Sunday and that the fish are thick. Saturday's fishing was good for ling and whiting as was Wednesday but required a lot of drops. Sunday was the culmination in a complete leap job.

Big Mohawk II reports very good blackfishing at Sea Bright. Saturday's pool fish ran 9 lbs. for Manufacturers Hanover Trust and Sunday's pool fish ran 8½ lbs., for Nazareth High School. Those who know how to blackfish are bagging up. Whiting seemed to have settled in at Scotland with some macs mixed in. Very good ling at Ambrose.

Capt. Larry on the **Eagle** reports whiting and ling very good both day and night, fishing the Ambrose/Scotland area. Larry says the area is loaded with fish of mixed sizes. For those of you who must work days, give his night trips a try.

The Flamingo III reports that he starting whiting and ling fishing now and there are plenty of fish around. Saturday and Sunday saw fairly decent catches with strong improvements everyday. Fish are mixed sizes so far, with baseball bats to come soon.

The new **Elsie K III** reports super ling and whiting—all you can handle just 25 minutes from the jetty. They had a super day on Sunday and expect fabulous catches from here on out.



Shown here is Tom Guida with a possible New York State record black sea bass of 5 lbs. 14 oz., caught off the beach at Wading River while bottom fishing for blues with 15 pound test line. Subscriber Club photo.

FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED

To place an ad in *The Long Island Fisherman's* classified ad section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read, along with your check or money order for the full amount. Rates for non-subscribers are 25 cents per word, 30 word ($7.50) minimum. Subscribers of *The Fisherman* receive a discount if they include the serial number off their *Subscriber's Club Card* with the order. Classified rates for subscribers are: 20 cents per word, 30 word ($6.00) minimum. Discounts for extended runs: 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times, 15%. To run a photograph with the ad, add $13.95.

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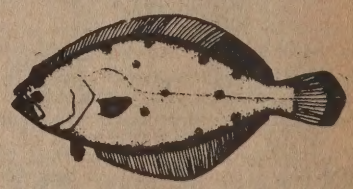

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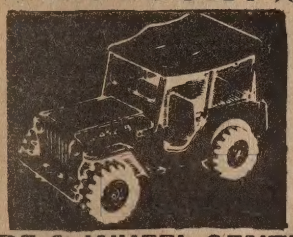

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

A. P. White Bait Shop reported the best bet last week was the blackfishing. It was described as good in all the local hotspots. This week Art will close for the winter. Art asked us to thank all his cutomers and passengers of all the ships that sail from his complex. He would also like to wish all their families a Happy Thanksgiving.

The Wilheric reports blackfishing remains excellent with areas being fished Plum Island (north side), Gull Island and in the Gut itself on the slack. On Sunday Sig Anderson and son from Westbury had over 20 blacks from 5 to 9 lbs. Pool fish generally go over 10 lbs. This is all on green crabs. Note that the boat is sailing Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only.

SELDEN

The Angler's Den reported that flounder fishing was excellent in the Mt. Sinai and Port Jefferson areas. As of last weekend there were still some scattered bluefish around. On one day early last week, the blues were reported to be in strong around Nessoquogue. Blackfish are out there for the taking, but most small boat fishermen have pulled their boats out of the water. Those that are going out are having difficult because of the strong winds. Kenny asked us to remind our readers that both stores, North and South, are sponsoring a large mallard and deer contest.

NORTHPORT

Bowman's Sporting Goods reported there was a good deal of both striper and bluefish activity around Can 13. Most of the bass were around 5 lbs. and a good number of the blues were around 10 lbs. Those fishermen who still have their boats in action seem to be getting these fish as a reward for braving the elements. More than one boat last week took anywhere from 75-150 lbs. of fish per trip. One of the tricks used was to substitute the middle hook of an umbrella rig with a jointed lancer eel. The fish are all being taken close to the bottom. Tom tells us that letting out about 80 ft. of wire should work pretty well in that area. Believe it or not, a few fluke were taken last week. There were similar reports of lingering fluke from the Conn. side of the Sound about two weeks ago. Flounder fishing was good all throughout the area for the entire week. The Lilco Plant is still producing small blues and stripers. The area east of Sunken Meadows State Park was the scene of some nice catches of white perch taken on worms.

Charles Metzger caught this 4 lb. 1 oz. sea bass fishing the "Weakfish Hole" which is located on the east side of Eaton's Neck. The fish took a Jigadoo Eel from the beach on six pound test. Subscriber Club Photo.

Shown here is Jim Holman, Jr., with a 31 lb. 9 oz. striped bass picked up in Plum Gut with bucktails. Photo courtesy of Tackle Shack.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** called to say that Albert Alhabsi of Westbury took the first tommy cod on the boat, a 3 pounder. Flounder fishing was good Sunday with several flounder in the 3 lb. class. George Haas of Ft. Salonga, on the morning trip took the pool with a 3½ pounder. Gary Dechen on the PM trip, bagged a 3 pounder for the pool on that trip.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reported good flounder results particularly around Eastchester Bay and Orchard Beach. Tom cods have been taken with great regularity in the same area plus Hart's Island and Port Washington. Those venturing out in boats to the Deep Hole off City Island near the Throggs Neck Bridge have been coming back with good catches of ling.

KATONAH, N.Y.

Bob's Sport Shop reported there was some nice sized smallmouth bass taken at Amawalk plus a few trout taken at Cross River. Anthony Natale took some nice smallmouth

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WRECK FISHING

(Continued from page 8.)

eight-ounce bank sinker. The prime consideration should be always that it be heavy enough to hold bottom without drifting off when at anchor.

And while we're on this subject, let me say now that it is strictly to your advantage to keep that rig perfectly still. Never, and I repeat, never move that rig once it reaches bottom. And don't jig. For some reason, December is no time for acrobatic bait. You'll catch few cod if you don't heed this.

My favorite hook for codfishing, no matter where the fishing is being done, has long been a 5/0 regular-shanked Sproat on an eighteen inch leader (or snell). I place this three to three-and-a-half feet above the sinker. If the tide is strong and more than an eight ounce weight becomes necessary, I use a three-foot leader in place of the eighteen.

My reason for this would take too long to go into now, although I have written about it in other codfishing articles. I'll explain it again one of these days, but for now, take my word for it and keep that longer length in mind. It makes all the difference in the world.

You can place the hook on the main line with either a 4/0 or 5/0 three-way swivel or a "Quick-Rig." The choice is yours, but I believe the "Quick-Rig" to be best. These are available in any well-stocked tackle shop.

Bait is the easily obtained skimmer. I never use more than half an average sized skimmer, or a third of a large one. I never overload my hook, no matter how tempting and appealing the idea may be.

Another good bait for wreck fishing is a small, lively bergall, hooked through the mouth and out the gill cover. If done with care, the bergall will live a good long time. I've caught many cod with this bait. You can also fillet a medium-sized bergall and use a whole strip. Don't bother to scale—this keeps the bait supple and attractive. Just hook once through the widest part.

I think wreck fishing for cod worth the effort. You may well catch your largest cod of the year. I know I have—more than once.

Don Urbanski caught this striped bass of 54 lbs. 4 oz. caught at Plum Gut on bucktails. Photo courtesy of Four Winds Tackle.

from 3-4 lbs. at Amawalk. Joe Pintel caught a 3⅓ pounder from Cross River.

NEW MILFORD

Bill's Bait and Tackle reported that the week before last Frank Barata, one of our regular readers, landed a 21½ inch, 4 lb. 3 oz. brown trout. Frank of New Milford took this prize out of Lake Candlewood. Fishing in the lake was pretty good last week, with quite a few pickerel and trout taken trolling. Andy Jacobs of Bristol landed four trout himself. Perch and bullheads are being taken over a widespread area of the lake, mostly in closer to the shoreline.

NEW ROCHELLE

Capt. Pete Pearson reported great flounder fishing last week. Last week also marked the end of Pete's 1977 schedule. Pete would like to thank all his passengers who sailed with him this past year. Next week Pete will be heading down to Florida to check on the progress of the construction of the New Klondike which should be ready to sail in March.

RYE

Point Tackle reported flounder fishing was fair. However, the strong winds made it difficult to get the proper drift. Paul recommended the best bet was to drop anchor and pick up about five or six fish. When things get quiet, let the boat move some distance and set the anchor again. Last week bass were reported to be up on top near Scotch Caps, but most boats are now out of the water.

GREENWICH

Sportsmen's Den reported most of the action has centered around flounder fishing. Some of the better results came out of the Mianus River right around the boat docks. Smaller flats were taken at the mouth of the river and Greenwich Cove. Tom cods are beginning to move in and are about ten inches long. As of last weekend, Greenwich Cove still had a large population of lafayettes. This may be keeping the flounder catches down.

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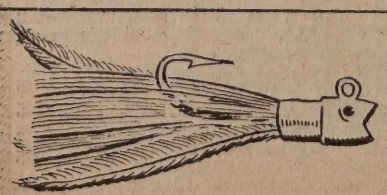

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	BOSTON AM	BOSTON PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	10:04	10:34	7:29	7:48	7:17	7:37	8:09	8:37	10:41	11:08	10:02	10:28	6:35	6:55	11/24
FRI.	10:44	11:14	8:07	8:25	7:55	8:17	8:45	9:14	11:13	11:41	10:42	11:07	7:12	7:35	11/25
SAT.	11:12	11:51	8:43	9:02	8:32	8:57	9:21	9:51	11:31	—	11:20	11:47	7:48	8:12	11/26
SUN.	—	12:01	9:19	9:39	9:09	9:37	9:57	10:32	12:02	11:47	11:59	—	8:23	8:50	11/27
MON.	12:31	12:39	9:56	10:17	9:44	10:19	10:35	11:12	12:14	12:15	12:26	12:37	8:59	9:28	11/28
TUE.	1:11	1:20	10:33	10:57	10:21	11:01	11:15	11:57	12:42	12:52	1:06	1:18	9:34	10:11	11/29
WED.	1:53	2:02	11:13	11:40	10:59	11:43	11:56	—	1:21	1:32	1:48	2:01	10:13	10:56	11/30
THUR.	2:36	2:48	11:57	—	11:36	—	12:45	12:40	2:03	2:17	2:33	2:46	10:56	11:40	12/1

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On BOSTON

HINGHAM BAY	
Nut Island	+ 0 07
Sheep Island	+ 0 07
Weymouth Fore River Bridge	+ 0 07
Weymouth Back River Bridge	+ 0 06
Crow Point	—0 00
Nantasket Beach, Weir River	+ 0 04
Strawberry Hill	+ 0 05
Hull	+ 0 03
COHASSET HARBOR TO DAVIS BK.	
Cohasset Harbor (White Hd.)	+ 0 02
Scituate	—0 05
Damons Pt., North River	+ 0 18
CAPE COD BAY	
Gurnet Point	+ 0 02
Plymouth	+ 0 05
Cape Cod Canal E	—0 01
Barnstable Harbor, Beach Pt.	+ 0 09
Wellfleet	+ 0 12
Provincetown	+ 0 14
Race Point	+ 0 03
CAPE COD	
Cape Cod Lighthouse SE of	+ 0 10
Nauset Harbor	+ 0 30
Chatham (outer coast)	+ 0 30
Chatham (inside)	+ 1 54
Pleasant Bay	+ 2 26
Monomoy Point	+ 0 40
Georges Shoal	—0 49
Davis Bk., Nantucket Shoals	+ 0 04
NANTUCKET SOUND, NORTH SIDE	
Stage Harbor	+ 0 55
Wychmere Harbor	+ 0 50
Dennis Port	+ 1 01
So. Yarmouth, Bass River	+ 1 46
Hyannis Port	+ 1 01
Cotuit Highlands	+ 1 15
Poponesset Island, Bay	+ 2 01
Succonnesset Pt.	+ 0 52
Falmouth Heights	—1 18
NANTUCKET ISLAND	
Tom Nevers Head	—0 57
Siasconset	+ 0 15
Wauwinet (outer shore)	+ 1 06
Great Point	+ 0 41
Nantucket	+ 1 05
Eel Point	+ 0 37
Tuckernuck Is., E. Pond	+ 0 46
Muskeget Is., No. Side	+ 0 23
Smith Pt., North Side	+ 0 46
MASSACHUSETTS	
Gloucester	—0 03
Manchester Harbor	—0 02
Beverly	—0 00
Salem	+ 0 02
Marblehead	—0 02
BROAD SOUND	
Nahant	—0 01
Lynn Harbor	+ 0 08
BOSTON HARBOR	
Boston Light	—0 00
Lovell Is., The Narrows	+ 0 02
Deer Island (south end)	—0 01
Belle Isle Inlet entrance	+ 0 18
Castle Island	—0 02
BOSTON	
Dover St. Bridge	+ 0 04
CHARLES RIVER	
Charlestown Bridge	+ 0 02
Charles River Dam	+ 0 05
Charlestown	—0 02
Chelsea St. Br. Chelsea River	—0 01
Neponset, Neponset River	—0 04
Moon Head	—0 01
Rainsford Island	—0 02

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

11/2	6:34	4:53
11/7	6:40	4:47
11/12	6:46	4:42
11/17	6:52	4:38
11/22	6:58	4:34
11/27	7:04	4:31

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
11/11	11/17	11/25	11/4

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	2:55	9:25	3:20	9:50
FRI.	3:35	10:10	4:05	10:30
SAT.	4:20	11:00	4:45	11:25
SUN.	5:10	11:45	5:40	—
MON.	6:00	12:20	6:30	12:45
TUES.	7:00	1:15	7:25	1:35
WED.	7:50	2:05	8:15	2:25
THURS.	8:40	2:55	9:05	3:15

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